

REMARKS

ON THE

PROPOSALS lately published

FOR

A NEW TRANSLATION

OF

DON QUIXOTE.

By Mr. Windham.

[Price One Shilling.]

R. E. M. A. R. K. S.

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FOR
A NEW TRANSLATION
OF
DON QUIXOTE.

In which will be considered,
The DESIGN of CERVANTES *Laavecha*
In WRITING the ORIGINAL, *K*
And some NEW LIGHTS given
Relative to his LIFE and ADVENTURES.

IN A
LETTER
FROM

A GENTLEMAN in the Country to
a FRIEND in Town.

LONDON:

Printed and sold by W. REEVE, in *Fleet-Street*.
M.DCC.LV.

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OF THE
PROPOSALS lately published

FOR
A NEW TRANSLATION

OF
DON QUIXOTE



The DESIGNS

IN WRITING

And some NEW LIGHTS

Relative to his LIFE and ADVENTURES

IN A

THE TREATISE

FROM

A CENTURMAN in the

A FRIEND in

LONDON

Printed by W. B. ...

...

REMARKS
ON THE
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FOR
A NEW TRANSLATION
OF
DON QUIXOTE.

DEAR SIR,

I Am infinitely obliged to you, for your most entertaining letter. To us who live almost constantly in the country, town-news is the greatest regale imaginable ; and those occurrences, which to you (who are on the spot, and have your
B attention

attention drawn off by the number and variety that daily happen) appear trivial, are affairs of great importance to us, and afford much matter, discourse and speculation.

You congratulate me on the new translation of my favourite book, *DON QUIXOTE*, by Dr. S. whose proposals and specimen I received along with your letter. You are of opinion, that as the doctor has had some success in novels of the humorous kind, he must be therefore extremely capable of tasting the genuine wit and humor of the original, and of giving it the proper spirit and force in English.

I will readily allow, that the having a turn and taste for humor is requisite in the translator of such a work ; but there are many other qualifications no less necessary, or rather much more so. He ought to understand both languages to a greater degree than most of the natives. He should not only know them grammatically, and be skilled in the language and style of the men of learning, and the gentry of each country, but be perfectly acquainted with the peculiarity of thinking and behaviour, the odd customs and vulgar prejudices,
the

the burlesque expressions, the phrases and proverbs of the lowest rank of people, and likewise with the dialects of the different provinces. This is a knowledge not to be attained by books and dictionaries; the best of which are, for the most part, deficient in the comick phrases and words of a language, and it is only to be acquired by long residence in a country, and conversing in general with all ranks and conditions of the natives.

Supposing a translator as well qualified as I here would have him; still, in a work of true humor, such as abounds in every page of *Don Quixote*, he will be often puzzled, and obliged to own that he cannot, with all his endeavours, come up to the true sense and spirit of the original expression, or give an adequate idea of what is meant or alluded to by the author.

What therefore shall we say to a man, who, having neither the qualifications above-mentioned, nor even the best dictionaries, and being too lazy or inaccurate to make a proper use of the helps he either has, or might easily procure, sets up for a translator of a book, perhaps (except our *Hudibras*) the most difficult in the world to translate,
and

and proposes no less than a subscription of two guineas? He has happily given a short specimen of his translation; from whence only, even with my little skill in Spanish, I think I can bring undoubted proofs that Dr. S. is such a translator as I just now mentioned. Were I better versed in the Spanish language, or had I books by me to consult, I should not doubt being able to find out many more egregious blunders, inaccuracies and bad translations.

According to this new translation, Don Quixote's dinner on Saturdays was a dish of *gripes and grumblings*. In his note * on

* "Gripes and grumblings, in Spanish *Duelos y Quebrantos*: the true meaning of which, the former translators have been at great pains to investigate, as the importance of the subject (no doubt) required. But their labours have, unhappily, ended in nothing else than conjectures, which for the entertainment and instruction of our readers, we beg leave to repeat. One interprets the phrase into collops and eggs, *being*, saith he, *a very sorry dish*." In this decision, however, he is contradicted by another commentator, who affirms, *it is a mess too good to mortify withal*; neither can this virtuoso agree with a late editor, who translates the passage in question, into an amlet; but takes occasion to fall out with Boyer for his description of that dish, which he most sagaciously understands to be a *bacon froize*,
" or

on that passage, which is inserted below, with a great affectation of that *solemn humor* which he tells us he intends to preserve in his translation, he informs us; 1st, That in the Spanish it is *Duelos y Quebrantos*. 2dly, That the former translators did not understand the meaning of it, and that they make very absurd conjectures about it: and, 3dly, That he does not understand it any better than they did, and that he can make conjectures full as absurd as theirs. It is indeed
a mis-

“ or rather fryze, from it's being fried, from frit in
“ French; and concludes with this judicious query,
“ after all these learned disquisitions, who knows but
“ the author means a dish of nichils? If this was his
“ meaning indeed, surely we may venture to conclude,
“ that fasting was very expensive in la Mancha; for
“ the author mentions the *Duelos y Quebrantos*,
“ among those articles that consumed three fourths of
“ the knight's income.

“ Having considered this momentous affair with all
“ the deliberation it deserves, we in our turn present
“ the reader, with cucumbers, greens and pease-por-
“ ridge, as the fruit of our industrious researches; be-
“ ing thereunto determined, by the literal significa-
“ tion of the text, which is not *grumblings and groan-*
“ *ings*, as the last-mentioned ingenious annotator seems
“ to think; but rather *pains and breakings*; and evi-
“ dently points at such eatables as generate and expel
“ wind; qualities (as every body knows) eminently
“ inherent in those vegetables we have mentioned as
“ our hero's Saturday's repast.”

a misfortune for a translator to meet with such a stumbling-block, at first setting out; but sure he had better have condescended to have had recourse to some of the Spanish minister's cooks or footmen, who probably might know what so common a dish was, than leave it, "Gripes" and grumblings," which convey no idea at all. As a parallel case, suppose a Frenchman was to translate the following sentence, "He was very temperate in all his meals, and at supper had only a Welch rabbit," in this manner; "*Il etoit sobre dans tous ses repas, et a souper mangeoit seulement un lapin du pais de Galles:*" And then, in a note, discuss whether a man could be called abstemious, that eat up a whole rabbit for supper, and offer some conjectures as to the Welch rabbits being smaller than others. Would he not be deservedly despised, since any servant-maid or drawer could have told him, that nothing more was meant than a piece of toasted cheese.

But if our learned doctor had consulted the Madrid dictionary, which it is unpardonable for him not to have been provided with, as it is the only one of any authority, like the *Crusca* in Italian, or *Richelet* and *Furetiere* in French; he would have

have found, *Duelos y Quebrantos llaman en la Mancha a la tortilla de huevos y sesos* ; Latine, *Ex ovis cerebrisq; frixus Orbiculus* ; that is, a name peculiar to La Mancha, signifying a kind of amlet made of eggs and brains of beasts.——The book is dear, it is true ; but sure any bookseller would have given him credit, on the strength of the subscription.

But here I must add a similar instance of the doctor's skill and accuracy as a translator, from the edition of *Gil Blas*, to which his name is prefixed. I have noted many more, but this is the first I at present recollect. He translates, "*Un petit chantre de Mondonedo, qui couroit le pais*"——
 "A little strolling ballad-singer of Mondonedo." A tolerable knowledge of the French tongue, or consulting *Richelet*, would have informed him, that *chantre* never signifies a *ballad-singer*, but one of the *vicars choral*, or *minor canons of some cathedral* : and indeed the least reflection on the sequel of the story, might have shewn him the absurdity of his translation ; for the evidence of this canon frees *Gil Blas* afterwards from prison at *Astorga*. Now a minor canon, being an ecclesiastick,
 was

was sure, in Spain especially, to be treated with some sort of respect, and his evidence would be of weight; whereas a strolling ballad-finger would have been most probably sent to prison to bear Gil Blas company, as a spy or accomplice of the robbers, instead of contributing to his enlargement.

“ He maintained a female house-
 “ keeper turned of forty, a niece of about
 “ half that age, and a trusty young fel-
 “ low, fit for field and market, who could
 “ turn his hand to any thing, either to
 “ saddle the horse or handle the hough.*”
Vide, Page 2. of the proposals.

In his note, he says, that what he has translated *hough*, is in the original *podadera*, or *pruning-hook*. In all wine countries, the culture and dressing of the vines is the most important and essential part of their husbandry; and the head servant in husbandry is the *vigneron*, or wine-dresser: so he had done better to have translated *podadera*, according to its true meaning.

“ Our

* “ *Podadera* literally signifies a pruning-hook.”
Vid. note in the specimen.

“ Our 'squire, who bordered upon fifty,
 “ was of a tough constitution, extremely
 “ meagre, and hard featured, an early
 “ riser, and in point of exercise, another
 “ Nimrod.”

In the original (says the note) a *lover of hunting*. What need was there then, of introducing Nimrod? Neither should he have translated it a *lover of hunting*; *chasse*, and *caccia*, signify in general all pursuit of wild beasts or birds, from the attacking lions and tigers, to the taking small birds with birdlime. Our word *hunting* expresses a particular way of pursuing the game; he should therefore have rendered it, *that he was a great sportsman*.

“ After having chosen, rejected, amended,
 “ ed, tortured and revolved a world of
 “ names, in his imagination, he fixed upon
 “ *Rozinante*; * an appellation, in his opi-
 “ nion, lofty, sonorous and expressive, not
 “ only of his *former*, but likewise of his
 C “ *present*

* “ *Rozinante* implies that which was formerly an
 “ *horse*, though the *ante* seems to have been intended
 “ by the knight as a badge of distinction, by which
 “ he was ranked before all other horses.” Note to the
 specimen.

“ present situation, which intitled him to
 “ the preference over all other horses under
 “ the sun.”

The absurdity of this note will plainly appear, when I tell you, that *Roussin* in French, *Ronzino* in Italian, and *Rozzino* in Spanish, mean always a road-horse, or hack. The Crusca and Madrid dictionaries render it, in Latin, *Equulus*, *Mannulus*. The war-horse, or charging-horse, that the knight used in battle, was called *Coursier*, in French; *Corssiero*, *destriero*, *Corridore*, in Italian: so *Rozinante*'s name expressed his having been *Rozzino*, or a hack, before Don Quixote preferred him to be his *Corssiero*, or war-horse.

“ Bernard del Carpio, who, at the bat-
 “ tle of Roncevalles, put the enchanter Or-
 “ lando to death, by the same means that
 “ Hercules used, when he strangled the
 “ earth-born Anteon.” Neither was he
 “ silent in the praise of Morgante, who,
 “ though of that gigantic race, which is
 “ noted for insolence and incivility, was
 “ perfectly affable and well-bred. But his
 “ chief favourite was Reynaldo of Montal-
 “ van, whom he hugely admired for his
 “ prowess, in fallying from his castle to
 “ rob

“ rob travellers ; and, above all things,
 “ for his dexterity in stealing that idol of
 “ the impostor Mahomet, which, according
 “ to the history, was of solid gold. For
 “ an opportunity of pummelling the traitor
 “ Galalon, he would willingly have given
 “ his house-keeper, body and soul ; nay,
 “ and his niece into the bargain.”

I will excuse *the enchanter Orlando*,
 instead of the *enchanted*, as it may be
 an error of the press ; but as in English
 we preserve the Greek and Latin ter-
 minations to proper names, I see no rea-
 son, except ignorance or carelessness, why
 he has left Anteus with a Spanish name,
 by which he will not be known to an
 English reader. The same I may say of
 Renaud de Montauban ; or in Italian, Ri-
 naldo di Montalbano, who was a French-
 mah, and lord of Montauban. He has left
 his name as in Spanish, viz. Reynaldo of
 Montalvan : as likewise Galalon, called by
 other writers Gano, or Ganellone ; of whom
 I should take no notice, since his name is
 only celebrated in the books of Romances
 and dubious history, only that the doctor
 says in his note that he betrayed the *Spanish*
 army at Roncesvalles ; whereas the army
 did nothing of which

which was defeated at that battle, so celebrated by the romancers and poets, for the death of Orlando and the Paladins, was the *French* army, under Charlemagne ; which, on their return to France was, by the treachery of Ganellon, drawn into the narrow passes of the Pyrenean mountains, and there in part cut off by the Moors and mountaineers. It is indeed no important piece of history, but as the doctor did attempt an explanation of it, he should at least have given a true one. otherwise we may justly suspect him in other places of equal blunders.

When I had got thus far of my letter, a friend asked me if I had seen Jarvis's translation of Don Quixote. Upon my telling him, that I knew only a very bad one of Motteux, and that of Skelton, which was but indifferent, he sent me Jarvis's. If I was pleased at finding we had in our language as good a translation of my favourite author, and done with as much attention and skill as we can ever expect to have from any body, I was surprized beyond all measure at the consummate effrontery (for I cannot call it otherwise) of a man, who, without any of the qualities requisite for a good translator, dares to publish his proposals

propofals and fpecimen, when there is fo much a better tranflation exifting than he is, or ever will be, capable of making; in which thofe above-cited paffages, where he has fo greatly blundered, are rightly tranflated, and properly explained by very fenfible notes: fo that I can fcarcely fup-
 pofe he ever could have feen it, other-
 wife that tranflation alone muft have pre-
 vented his publifhing fuch egregious ab-
 furdities; and his fubfcribers would have
 been infinitely better ufed, if he had literally
 followed it throughout, inftead of giving
 them fuch a crude, mangled, blundering
 work, as his muft be, if he goes on as his
 fpecimen promifes.

I muft now, at the hazard of tiring you
 with the length of my epiftle, offer a few
 obfervations and conjectures of my own,
 with refpect to the nature of this moft in-
 imitable work, Don Quixote, and the in-
 tent the author Cervantes had in writing
 it; and alfo communicate to you fome
 difcoveries I think I have made, relating
 to his life and actions.

It is a general received opinion that
 Cervantes, by the character he has drawn
 of Don Quixote, meant to ridicule the ex-
 travagant chimerical notions of valour and
 gallantry

gallantry which at that time prevailed in Spain, and to banter his countrymen out of them; and I have somewhere found it given as a reason for the great declension of the Spanish monarchy and power, under the III^d and IVth Philips, and Charles II^d, that Don Quixote had produced too great an effect, and had damped the antient Spanish courage: but if it may be proved, that the Spanish nation at that time had no such extravagant notions of courage and gallantry, as to render them by any means like Don Quixote, then this opinion falls to the ground, and we must find out another reason for Cervantes's writing.

Knight-errantry took its origin from the Lombard laws, which established trials by combat. This barbarous custom soon prevailed over all Europe, as it must naturally do, when arms and war were looked on as the only employ or occupation worthy a free man; and the nobility neither knew, nor thought of any thing else*. In those days it often

* Voltaire has, in his little essay on the history of the Crusades, given in few words so just and lively a description of the disposition of the nobility in Europe in those days, and the state of society, that I must refer you to it for a confirmation of what is here asserted. *Vid.* Abregé de l'histoire universelle, article des croisades, tom. 2, pag. 114, ed. Londres.

often happened, that priests, women and infants were obliged to appear in the lists by their champions, for the defence of their lives and properties. A stout and valiant knight therefore, who was ready to appear as champion for those helpless persons who were unjustly accused, or whose properties were iniquitously invaded, was a noble and virtuous character, and a useful member of society, such as it was : besides, as the combat was looked on as a solemn appeal to the justice of God, if the champion judged his party's cause a good one, he looked on himself as assured of victory.

From these real characters and customs the romancers and poets took occasion, not only to invent many fictitious personages, whom they made to wander about in search of adventures and achievements ; but, when they took real characters from history, they added so many legendary, absurd tales, that they rendered the whole incredible ; and as from the weight of the armour and way of fighting in those times, extraordinary bodily strength was a most necessary qualification for a warrior ; and as spells and enchantments were universally credited, so they had a fine field for their fictions of giants, magicians, &c. but afterwards

wards when Europe became more civilized, and *human statute purg'd the general weal*, these trials by combat either were formally abolished, or ceased by disuse every where, and of course all knight-errantry ended. Jufts and tournaments still continued in vogue; and indeed, as I have already observed, the armour and manner of fighting made a constant course of all exercises that could strengthen the body, absolutely necessary to whoever followed war, as all the nobility at that time did *; and now and then, when a nobleman found himself remarkably skillful and potent in arms, he would be fond of going to shew his strength and address in foreign parts, in order to acquire fame and reputation: and this was always done with a great deal of romantick gallantry and pomp, agreeable to the humor of those times, and these military sports often ended fatally with bloodshed: but then this custom was as much or more in vogue in other countries, as in Spain; and I will only refer you to Dugdale's Antiquities

* The view of the horse armoury at the Tower of London, will give a very compleat idea of the armour and accoutrements of a man at arms, or knight, of those days: where are also to be seen the heavy launces, swords and battle-axes, which they commonly used, though at present, from the great size and weight of them, we can scarce believe it possible.

Antiquities of Warwickshire, where he gives an account of the Earl of Warwick's tournament near Calais, and of Sir John Astley's two combats against a French and an Arragonian knight, to be convinced that our own countrymen were, in these respects, as romantick as any other nation whatever. Besides, the Spanish tournaments were of a different nature from those of other countries; for their horsemen riding mostly short, *a la ginetta*, in their sports they used the *juego de cannas*, throwing canes at one another, after the Moorish fashion, which was not so dangerous as the combat with launces: and indeed, so soon as that weapon came to be laid aside by the cavalry for the sword and pistol, all jousts and tournaments grew into disuse, which was already the case in Cervantes's time.

Bull-feasts indeed were, and are still, the delight of the Spaniards: but what is extraordinary, I do not recollect that Cervantes any where endeavours to turn that exercise into ridicule, though certainly nothing can be more in the high romantick taste. Nor does he exert his wit and humor against the folly of the Duello, or the science of discussing quarrels, and regulating

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private

private combats ; which, by way of eminence, was called *scienza cavalleresca*, or the science of a gentleman, which at that time prevailed to the highest degree all over Europe : and we find it ridiculed by all our comic writers of that age, in numberless places, which shews we were greatly infected with it. Indeed two books printed in England at that time, on that absurd subject, one of which is dedicated to the Earl of Essex and the other to Sir Christopher Hatton, seem to prove its being in high esteem and fashion here : and it is somewhat difficult to account for Cervantes's not having exposed the Duello, and its consequences, with all the force of his wit and humor, if his chief intent had been to explode all false valour, of which this was the utmost perfection. To enter into a detail of it, and all its absurdities, would much exceed the bounds I have set myself, and swell this letter to a large volume.

The translator's preface to Jarvis's edition gives a very imperfect account of it, with a great parade of learning ; and though I never read FAUSTO, an Italian author he cites, yet what he there quotes from him is so different from what other authors give us, so contrary to
to

to the true spirit of the *Duello*, and so absurd in itself, that I must think he misunderstood the author, or that he is not very authentick. *

But it must be allowed that, at this time, true military valour, in the most honourable sense of the word, was at its highest pitch in Spain. Their infantry had, for above a century, been the admiration and terror of all Europe, and maintained their reputation under all the misfortunes that the weakness of their government brought on their arms, 'till 1643, when the last remains of their celebrated Flanders bands were, after a most desperate resistance, cut totally to pieces at the battle of Rocroy, by the Duc D'Enguien, afterwards Prince of Condé, who was forced to bring cannon to break the ranks of those invincible battallions, which the utmost efforts of his troops could not do.

The French, who had most experienced their valour (though enemies) give them
the

* Monsignor Fontanini, in his *Biblioteca dell' Eloquenza Italiana*, vol. 2, pag. 366, ed. Ven. 1753, mentions a book or two of Fausto's on the *Duello*; but adds, "That they are of little or no authority."

the highest encomiums. Brantome, in many places, praises their strict order, discipline, sobriety and valour; and when he describes the *terzi*, or regiments, which the Duke of Alba led into Flanders, he is quite in raptures with their stately, grand appearance, many of the soldiers being gentlemen of family, and all of them vying with each other in military finery; such as * plumes of feathers, gold chains, and their arms ornamented and inlaid with gold and silver.

The

* Regimentals were not in use then. The soldiers, of different nations, were distinguished by the colour of their scarves, and the crosses which they wore on their armour. Voltaire attributes the introduction of uniforms to Lewis XIV. but he did not do it till about 1670, or later; for in Vander Meulen's pictures, who attended him in all his conquests, and painted every thing from the life, you see none; which he could not omit in painting of troops, if they were then used. But D'Ablancourt, in his Memoirs, expressly says, That Mareschal Schomberg took them from the English regiments which came to serve in Portugal, which were clothed in red uniforms, and the regiments distinguished by different facings; and that he followed that example in Portugal, and afterwards introduced it into France. The English had used them a great while; for in the Memoirs of the Duke of York, printed with the Life of Turenne, he says, That at the battle of the Downs, in 1658, he knew the English as they came out of the trenches, by their red coats: and I think I have, in some old plays before that time, met with the word *red-coats* used for soldiers.

The celebrated Abbé du Bos, in his introduction to his excellent history of the Ligue de Cambray, speaks thus of them :
 “ The strength of the Spanish armies consisted in their infantry. It was composed of soldiers who were brave, hardy, sober, and which, in service, observed the strictest discipline : in short, such as Justin describes the Spaniards in his days, men whom hardship and want could not discourage, nor danger terrify. Their arms were targets, partisans, swords, daggers and harquebusses. Nothing could resist them in assaults of towns, and though the Swissers and Germans might break them in the open plains, they could not nevertheless put them to flight. The Spanish soldiers, covered with their targets, would push in among the pikes of their enemies, to stab them with their daggers ; and generally, in these engagements, the greatest loss was on the side of the conquerors. Soon after, learning in Italy the Swiss method of mixing pikemen among their battalions, they were no longer a body easy to be broken.”

He

He says much more of them, but this is sufficient to shew the high degree of esteem the Spanish soldiery were in at that time ; and, as Abbé du Bos expresses it, “ The
 “ great reputation that these stern batal-
 “ lions of sun-burnt dwarfs kept up for
 “ above one hundred and fifty years, ’till
 “ they sunk, overwhelmed with the mis-
 “ fortunes of the monarchy they defended.”

Now Cervantes was a soldier, nay, I think a captain, in these very troops ; and was, as you will see in the sequel, a man of a most undaunted and desperate courage : and there can be no manner of doubt, but that he had all the Spanish *punto*, and high notions of valour and honour as strong in him as any man of the whole nation, and would not have dared to have contradicted or ridiculed any of the most romantick opinions of his countrymen in these affairs ; which, to all soldiers, are most particularly tender points.

But now you will naturally ask me, what did Cervantes write his book for ? Was it only to amuse his countrymen with a work of humor ? No ; his design was great, worthy

worthy of a man of his genius, and nobly executed on quite a new, original plan, and the best calculated to serve the end he proposed.

His book was meant to ridicule the studies and taste, not the customs and manners of the Spaniards. He saw, with regret and indignation, that in most other countries in Europe true taste and polite literature prevailed, and that arts and sciences were encouraged and cultivated, whilst Spain was still in the greatest degree of ignorance and barbarism, and nothing read or esteemed but romances and books of chivalry, and of these the very worst were most in vogue, the legends of knight-errantry : works as wild and absurd as the Arabian Tales, from whence no useful knowledge or maxims could ever be drawn, or could any man be made wiser or better by them.

How could he then most effectually attack this depraved taste of his countrymen? A grave argumentation would not have been read, at least by the majority ; nor would it have had the effect of exquisite ridicule. He saw that nothing but novels and works of amusement and imagination

imagination would go down. What then has he done? By drawing a character entirely original, with all the wit and humor, possible, he fell in with their taste, and forced them to read and bear the severest satire imaginable on themselves. He presents them Don Quixote, a man otherwise of good sense and judgement, but who, in his peculiar madness, forms all his ideas upon the plan of the books which were then read and admired, and who acts accordingly. Could there be a finer way of shewing them the uselessness, or rather pernicious tendency, of such kind of studies? In many parts of the work, we meet with fine strokes of criticism on authors that we know, and are sensible of; but at that time, when all the books alluded to were well known, I dare say there was scarce a page but what afforded delicate touches of satire; as our celebrated play of the Rehearsal must have had a quite different effect on the audience, when all the plays imitated or parodied in it were in constant acting, and known by every body, than it can possibly have now.

In the view therefore of a satire on the taste and studies of the Spaniards, I look on
Don

Don Quixote to be the greatest performance that ever appeared ; whereas, if you consider it as a satire on their customs and manners, it appears very imperfect, as he has ridiculed customs they never had to any greater degree than their neighbours, and has not touched on the Duello, Bull-feasts, and other things, which might have properly been the subject of ridicule.

I shall now add a word relating to the life and actions of our author, and so conclude this tedious epistle. Miguel Cervantes de Saavedra was certainly, by the consent of all his biographers, a soldier ; and, part of his life, a slave at Algiers. Some imagine he gives you his own story, in that of the captive. Indeed that story always particularly strikes me. It is told with such spirit, and, at the same time, with such simplicity, that you cannot but feel with him, and think that no man could describe adventures in such a manner, but one who actually had undergone those hardships he describes.

But Cervantes means not to relate his own adventures ; he however alludes to himself, in a passage where the captive, describing

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the

the cruelties of Azan Aga his master, says,
 “ One Spanish foldier only, called Saave-
 “ dra, happened to be in his good graces ;
 “ and though he did things which will re-
 “ main in the memory of these people for
 “ many years, and all towards obtaining
 “ his liberty, yet he never gave him a
 “ blow, nor ordered one to be given him,
 “ nor ever gave him so much as a hard
 “ word ; and for the least of many things
 “ he did we all feared he would be impaled
 “ alive, and he feared it himself more than
 “ once : and, were it not that the time will
 “ not allow me, I would now tell you of
 “ some things done by this foldier, which
 “ would be more entertaining, and more
 “ surprizing, than the relation of my
 “ story.”

By this Saavedra is certainly meant our au-
 thor ; and Morgan, in his History of Algiers,
 (pag. 563, and seq.) cites the following pas-
 sage out of Haedo, a Portuguese writer,
 which has hitherto been unobserved by all
 the writers which I have seen, that mention
 Cervantes, but can belong to no other per-
 son ; which clearly shews him to be a
 man of a most desperate and undaunted
 courage, as I have before asserted.

“ In

“ In the first year of his administration,
 “ at once he got fifteen captives, able to
 “ disburse considerable sums for their ran-
 “ soms: by four or five of them, indeed he
 “ was no great gainer in the end. These
 “ were twelve Spanish, and three Mayor-
 “ can gentlemen; who, being slaves to
 “ different patrons, all demanding high
 “ prices, were desirous of leaving those ava-
 “ ricious dealers in human flesh with the
 “ dog to hold. The contriver of all was
 “ one Don Miguel de Cervantes, a gallant,
 “ enterprizing, cavalier Spaniard; who,
 “ though he never wanted money, could
 “ not obtain a release.

“ A bold mariner of Mayorca, named
 “ Viana, having then ransomed himself,
 “ Don Miguel and the rest agreed with
 “ him to fetch them off by night in a
 “ brigantine; sending by him letters to
 “ the Vice-roy of Mayorca, desiring his
 “ assistance. This Mayorcan undertook
 “ the affair. Upon his departure, the re-
 “ mainder of those fifteen gentlemen ab-
 “ sconded in a garden, or vineyard, near
 “ the sea, appertaining to Al-Caid Hassan
 “ (for several were there some months be-
 “ fore)

" fore) a renegado Greek ; where, unknown
 " to the owner, they were concealed in a
 " cave, and carefully watched by that re-
 " negado's gardener, who was a captive
 " Christian.

" Don Miguel's purse supplied them
 " with necessaries, daily brought them by
 " a Spanish slave, known only by the
 " name of El Dorador, or the Gilder ;
 " who, except the said gardener, alone was
 " let into the secret, and who, with the
 " other, was to accompany them in their
 " escape. Almost miraculously, they had
 " all that time escaped their owners most
 " diligent search, and were quite given
 " over.

" Viana punctually complied with his
 " promise and obligation ; and, at the Vice-
 " roy's cost, soon came with a well ap-
 " pointed brigantine : but just as he was
 " putting ashore, in the dead time of a
 " very dark night, certain Moors, unluckily
 " happening to pass that way, raised the
 " alarm, and he found himself obliged to
 " return reinfected.

" As

" As the cave was moist, some of those
 " captive gentlemen began to want health,
 " and all of them to be in despair at this
 " tedious delay, so contrary to their expectations; for many days had passed, and
 " they heard nothing of that disappointment. Yet still they entertained some
 " hope of relief, as depending on Viana's
 " probity.

" Their till-now faithful emissary, the
 " Gilder, commenced villain. Repairing to
 " the palace, he expressed his desire of becoming a Mussulman; and farther to ingratiate himself with the Basha, from
 " whom, and perhaps from the owners of
 " those captives, if they ever got them, a
 " noble reward might be expected, he made
 " an ample discovery. This was music to
 " Hassan Basha, who had already swallowed those lost captives as lawful prize.
 " Sending immediately for the Guardian
 " Bashee, he ordered him to take a sufficient party of armed men, and follow the
 " perfidious Judas. The gardener was first
 " seized, and then all those in the cave.

F

" As

“ As the Bascha had ordered, particular
 “ care was taken of Don Miguel Cervantes,
 “ a person he much desired to call his
 “ own. This gentleman’s character is very
 “ remarkable; and, according to Haedo,
 “ the adventures of that noble captive, and
 “ of the others his associates, would fill a
 “ volume. Without farther ceremony the
 “ Bascha sent them all to his bagnio, ex-
 “ cept Cervantes, whom he retained: omit-
 “ ting neither offers, promises nor menaces,
 “ in order to induce him to discover who
 “ else was concerned with him in the con-
 “ trivance of that project: for, as the trai-
 “ tor had insinuated, he would fain have
 “ prevailed on him to accuse the aforesaid
 “ F. Oliver, who was still there; and from
 “ whom, with such a handle, he would
 “ have extorted a round sum before he
 “ quitted Algiers. But that generous, no-
 “ ble-spirited Spaniard, far from acknow-
 “ ledging him, or any other, to be in the
 “ least privy thereto, took the whole ma-
 “ nagement and contrivance absolutely upon
 “ himself.

“ When, after several days trial, Hassan
 “ Bascha found he could get no more from
 “ him,

“ him, either by fair or foul means, he or-
 “ dered him to be carefully secured, among
 “ his other slaves, at the bagnio: though
 “ he was afterwards forcibly compelled to
 “ return him, and three or four more of
 “ that confederacy, to their respective pa-
 “ trons.

“ Al-Caid Hassan, in whose garden they
 “ had been taken, probably to clear him-
 “ self of all imputation, instantly repaired
 “ to the palace, insisting strenuously to
 “ have the Basha inflict some severe punish-
 “ ment on all the offenders, as he would
 “ set him an example in his own slave, the
 “ gardener. All he could get of Hassan
 “ Basha, was free leave to do what he
 “ thought fit with his own. Accordingly
 “ the poor gardener, a native of Navarre,
 “ was hanged up by one foot, and soon
 “ died, strangled in his own blood. The
 “ rest escaped, without corporal punish-
 “ ment.

“ Concerning Cervantes, my author adds:
 “ It is a wonderful case, how those persons
 “ could endure being so buried in a cavern,
 “ where they never saw any light, nor
 “ breathed

“ breathed fresh air, only during the night,
 “ some of them seven months, some five,
 “ and the rest less, all which time they
 “ were supported by Cervantes, at the ex-
 “ treme hazard of his own life ; which he
 “ was four different times just upon the
 “ point of losing, by being impaled, hook-
 “ ed or burned alive, and all for projects
 “ and attempts of his to set at liberty great
 “ numbers of captives, and even for greater
 “ matters : for had his fortune and success
 “ but corresponded with his courage, in-
 “ dustry and schemes, Algiers would at
 “ this day have been possessed by Chris-
 “ tians ; to nothing less did his designs
 “ aspire.

“ He adds, That what occurred in the
 “ cave, during those seven months, deserves
 “ a particular history.

“ The Basba, being forced to return
 “ Cervantes to his patron, could not be
 “ easy 'till he had purchased that notable
 “ slave, which he did for five hundred
 “ gold ducats, and let him go some time
 “ after for double that money ; chiefly at
 “ the strenuous intercession of a Trinitarian
 “ Father,

" Father, named F. Juan Gil, who came
 " over to ransom captives.

" Hassan Basha used to say, concludes
 " this author, While I hold that maimed
 " Spaniard in safe custody my vessels, slaves,
 " and even my whole city, are secure : so
 " much did he dread the projects and con-
 " trivances of Don Miguel de Cervantes.
 " And had he not been betrayed by his
 " confederates, happy would have been his
 " captivity, though one of the most
 " wretched thraldoms that ever any one
 " underwent at Algiers : and the only re-
 " medy this Basha could invent to guard
 " himself from this formidable slave, was
 " to purchase him of his patron. It is
 " pity, methinks, that Haedo is here so
 " succinct, in what regards this enterprising
 " captive."

I have given you the whole passage
 out of Morgan, though a long one, be-
 cause I believe the book is not very
 common. And now, after so long an epis-
 tle, the sooner I come to a conclusion the
 better ; therefore I shall trouble your pati-
 ence no longer, than just to beg you will
 do

(38)

do me the justice to believe me, with the
greatest friendship,

Dear SIR,

Yours, &c.

FINIS.



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